

## Message Text

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43

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
----- 030598

R 101355Z FEB 76  
FM AMCONSUL ASMARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3819  
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA  
INFO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO  
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0118

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR PINS ET

SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH ACTING ITALIAN CONSUL GENERAL  
QM ON FEB. 10 CONGEN OFFICER MET WITH HAGGARD AND HARASSED  
ACTING ITALIAN CONGEN VITALIANO NAPOLEONE TO OBTAIN FORTHER  
INFORMATION ON SENTENCING FEB. 5 OF TWO ITALIANS AND TWO

PAGE 2 RUFTEFA5118 C O N F I D E N T I A L  
ERITREANS INVOLVED IN ALLEGED PLOT TO COMMUNICATE WITH  
INSURGENTS IN DAHLAC ISLANDS. ITALIAN CITIZEN DEBENI,  
GENERAL MANAGER OF SAVON & REIS TRADING COMPANY, WAS  
SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT, AND FORMER SAVON & RIES  
EMPLOYEE, MAURO, WAS FOUND NOT GUILTY AND ORDERED  
EXPELLED FROM THE COUNTRY WITHIN 24 HOURS. ERITREANS  
IMPLICATED IN SAME PLOT WERE REPORTEDLY SENTENCED TO DEATH. NAPOL-  
EONE SAID GOI ANTICIPATES THAT EPMG WILL APPROACH EITHER CONGEN,  
EMBASSY OR GOI IN ROME INDICATING WILLINGNESS TO EXPEL DEBENI  
IF PERSONAL APPEAL MADE AT APPROPRIATE LEVEL. MEANWHILE, DEBENI'S  
ATTORNEY IS PURSUING APPEAL PROCEURKIS.

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2. ON OTHER MATTERS, NAPOLEONE SAID THAT HE WAS PARTICULARLY

TROUBLED BY CURRENT WAVE OF CRIMINAL ACTIVITY IN ASRA BY "GANG" OF YOUNG ERITREANS CLAIMING VAGUE AFFILIATION WITH INSURGENTS WHO HAVE SYSTEMATICALLY EXTORTED MONEY FROM EXPATRIATES IN NIGHTTIME INTRUSIONS INTO EXPATRIATES' HOMES. AS INDIRECT RESULT OF SUCH ATTACKS, 82-YEAR-OLD ITALIAN MAN WAS KILLED FEB. 9 BY TWO EPMG SOLDIERS WHO WERE SUPPOSEDLY GUARDING HIS HOUSE AGAINST REPEAT OF EXTORTION ATTEMPT.

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3. RE KIDNAPPINGS, NAPOLEONE SAID HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED OF RELEASE OF FALASCHI (NOT FALANCHI) IN KHARTOUM, ALTHOUGH HE HAD HEARD THAT FALASCHI WAS IN SUDAN. HE WAS PLEASED BY THE NEWS AS FIRST BRIGHT SPOT DURING 6-WEEK PERIOD THAT HE HAS BEEN IN CHARGE OF ITALIAN CONSULATE GENERAL. HE DID NOT EXPRESS MUCH INTEREST IN SITUATION CONCERNING REMAINING AMERICAN HOSTAGES.

4. NAPOLEONE WAS INTERESTED IN SECURITY MEASURES TAKEN TO PROTECT OFFICIAL AMERICANS IN ASMARA, PARTICULARLY EVACUATION OF STATE AND KAGNEW DEPENDENTS AND POSTING OF EPMG TROOPS ON CONGEN COMPOUND. IT IS APPARENT THAT HE CONSIDERS MEASURES TAKEN BY AMERICANS AS BEING OF IMPORT TO GOI ATTITUDES TOWARD SECURITY OF ITALIANS IN ERITREA.  
SHERRY

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PFOR, PINS, ET, (NAPOLEONE, VITALIANO)  
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